

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 02965 251832Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /052 W

----- 001537

R 251825Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9312

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 02965

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: "RAY OF HOPE" IN FEBRUARY JOBLESS FIGURES

1. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES RELEASED FEBRUARY 24 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT (DE) - SHOWING A SLOWDOWN IN THE BASIC UPWARD TREND - HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM IN THE PRESS WHICH USED SUCH PHRASES

AS "A RAY OF HOPE AHEAD", THOUGH ONE OBSERVER MADE THE POINT THAT "ONE FEATHER OF THE SWALLOW DOES NOT A SUMMER MAKE". THE OVERALL TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED ACTUALLY DECREASED BUT THIS WAS DUE TO ADULT STUDENTS LEAVING THE REGISTER TO RETURN TO COLLEGE. MORE ENCOURAGING WAS A  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 02965 251832Z

SMALL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR

ADULTS. HOWEVER, THESE MODEST SIGNS OF POTENTIAL RECOVERY ARE NOT PREVENTING TRADE UNION LEADERS FROM PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MORE VIGOROUS ACTION TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT.

2. THE UK TOTAL OF UNEMPLOYED DECREASED BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BY 125,953 TO 1,304,416 OR 5.6 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, THE FALL BEING DUE TO 127,126 ADULT STUDENTS AND 10,623 SCHOOL-LEAVERS LEAVING THE REGISTER. IN GREAT BRITAIN (NOT INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND) THE TOTAL STOOD AT 1,253,427 OR 5.5 PERCENT, A DECREASE OF 118,954 FROM JANUARY MAINLY CAUSED BY THE REMOVAL OF 120,555 ADULT STUDENTS AND 10,017 SCHOOL-LEAVERS FROM THE REGISTER.

3. EXCLUDING SCHOOL-LEAVERS AND ADULT STUDENTS, THE GREAT BRITAIN UNEMPLOYED TOTAL INCREASED BY 11,618 TO 1,225,420 AGAINST A DECREASE OF 9,000 WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED ON SEASONAL GROUNDS. AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT THEREFORE THE TOTAL INCREASED BY 21,300 TO 1,184,800 OR 5.2 PERCENT. THIS COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 35,000, 42,000, 44,000 AND 52,000 IN THE PREVIOUS FOUR MONTHS. ON AVERAGE OVER THE THREE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL INCREASED BY 32,000 A MONTH COMPARED WITH 40,000 A MONTH IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY AND 46,000 A MONTH IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER - SHOWING THE SLOWDOWN IN THE UPWARD TREND.

4. THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS INCREASED BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BY 10,421 TO 97,205, WHICH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WAS AN INCREASE OF 2,400 TO 111,200 COMPARED WITH A DECREASE OF 14,251 LAST MONTH. JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DECREASED BY 287 TO 17,613. FIGURES FOR THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT SHOW THAT THE TOTAL OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED FOR FOUR WEEKS OR LESS WAS 213,000 AND THE

TOTAL UNEMPLOYED FOR FOUR WEEKS OR MORE WAS 1,040,000 COMPARED WITH FIGURES OF 208,000 AND 1,044,000 RESPECTIVELY LAST MONTH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 02965 251832Z

5. ONE EXPLANATION FOR THIS MONTH'S EXTREMELY MODEST IMPROVEMENT IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IS THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL JOB-SAVING MEASURES - THOUGH DAVID BASNETT, A TUC LEADER, COMMENTED THAT "THE MONTHLY INCREASE IS STILL AT A HIGHER RATE THAN THE TOTAL EFFECT OF ALL THE JOB-SAVING MEANS SO FAR ADOPTED".

SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNEMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LONDON02965  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760071-0904  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760215/aaaaamnx.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** castelsl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by castelsl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** "RAY OF HOPE" IN FEBRUARY JOBLESS FIGURES  
**TAGS:** ELAB, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006